IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 1. This sheet, which includes

Fig. 1, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 25-48 are pending in the present application. Claims 25, 33 and 41 are amended by the present amendment to remove an alternative expression. Thus, no new matter is presented.

In the Office Action, Fig. 1 is objected to because of minor informalities; and Claims 25-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Wilson et al. (U.S. Pat. 6,670,908, herein Wilson).

Regarding the objection to Fig. 1, the boxes labeled as 3A, 3C, 3D, 3G and 3H are amended to include the text label "Data Source", as recommended in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to Fig. 1 be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects Claims 25-48 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Wilson. In response to this rejection, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claims 25, 33 and 41 recite novel features clearly not disclosed by Wilson.

Amended independent Claim 25, for example, recites, in part, a computer-based risk detection system comprising:

> ... a network interface, at the server, configured to receive risk information from geographical distributed computerized data sources located in first geographical areas via the communication network, the risk information including an identification of a specific risk, a rating of the specific risk, and information for associating the specific risk with one of the first geographical areas ...
> a memory configured to store a plurality of correlation factors associated with geographical areas ___and a plurality of stored data about spreading patterns___, wherein each of said plurality of correlation factors are associated with geographical areas ___and each of said plurality of stored data about spreading patterns correspond to a different one of a plurality of specific risks___ including risks associated with technical, ecological, geological, meteorological, epidemiological, cultural, political and economical systems;
> a processor configured to detect a specific risk emerging in one of the first geographical areas and spreading to one or more second geographical

areas based on stored risk information including the rating of the specific risk assigned to the one of the first geographical areas, the stored correlation factors, *__and__ the data about spreading patterns* ...

Independent Claims 33 and 41, while directed to alternative embodiments, are amended to recite similar features.

As noted above, independent Claims 25, 33 and 41 are amended to omit the phrase "and/or" and to replace this term with "and", clarifying that both the correlation factors and the spreading patterns are stored, and "the processor configured to detect a specific risk ... based on the stored correlation factors *and* the data about spreading patterns".

Turning to the applied reference, Wilson describes a computer based method of processing meteorological data to automatically characterize significant meteorological events. Wilson describes that meteorological data is received and processed to generate a plurality of distinct threat products for a given geographic area, and the threat products are combined over the given geographic area to create a composite threat product, which is automatically compared to predetermined threshold values to identify one or more areas of meteorological threats.

In contrast, the stored data about spreading patterns recited in Claims 25, 33 and 41 are based on recordings of past spreading of risks across boundaries of defined geographical areas. Storing and using data about spreading patterns allows for the detection of emerging risks in geographical areas without any or with only limited technical infrastructure of a risk detection system. A risk emerging in a geographical area without any or with only limited technical infrastructure is detected based on risk information received from another geographical area and based on stored data about spreading patterns indicating past spreading of risks from this other geographical area to the geographical area with limited technical infrastructure. Consequently, it is not necessary to set up, maintain and operate a technical

infrastructure for measuring and transmitting risk indicators in all geographical areas for which emerging risks are detected.

In rejecting the claimed features directed to storing the "correlation factors associated with geographical areas and/or a plurality of stored data about spreading patterns", the Office Action relies on col. 6, ll. 56-65, col. 7, ll. 15-20 and col. 8, ll. 12-13:23-26 of Wilson. These cited portions of Wilson describe that three types of measured meteorological threat information may be combined to produce a composite threat field which is compared to one or more threshold values that are either preprogrammed or user definable. Those portions of the composite threat field meeting and/or exceeding one or more of the threshold values are automatically identified as an area of threat and are immediately available for graphic display, for automated alert notification, or can be disseminated through various other mechanisms.

Wilson, therefore, fails to teach or suggest the use of spreading factors, as recited in amended independent Claim 25. More specifically, Wilson fails to disclose that his system includes "a memory configured to store a plurality of correlation factors associated with geographical areas *and a plurality of stored data about spreading patterns*, wherein each of said plurality of correlation factors are associated with geographical areas *and each of said plurality of stored data about spreading patterns correspond to a different one of a plurality of specific risks* ..." and "a processor configured to detect a specific risk emerging in one of the first geographical areas and *spreading to one or more second geographical areas* based on stored risk information including the rating of the specific risk assigned to the one of the first geographical areas, the stored correlation factors *and the data about spreading patterns*".
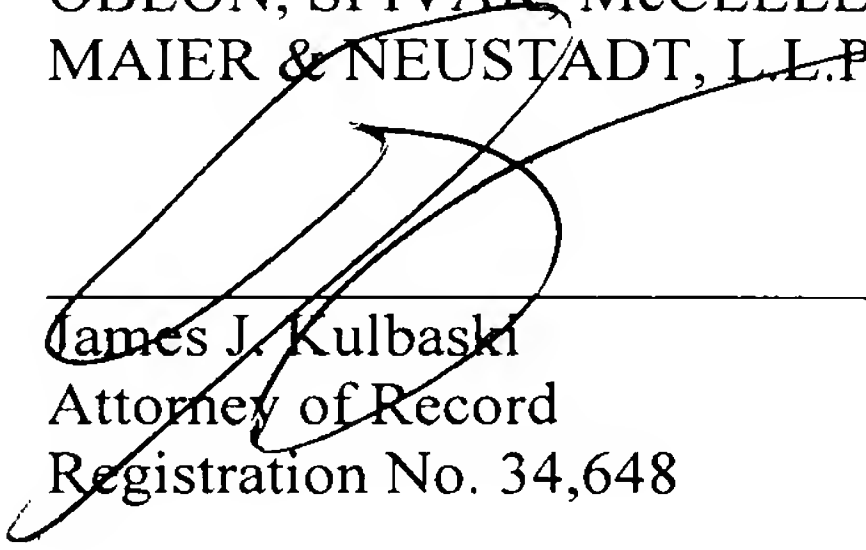
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 25 (and Claims 26-32, which depend therefrom) under 35 U.S.C. § 102 be withdrawn. For

substantially similar reasons, it is also submitted that independent Claims 33 and 41 (and

Claims 34-40 and 42-48, which depend therefrom) patentably define over <u>Wilson</u>.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment,

the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable action

to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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